

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10632 040933Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-07 MC-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR IT LY

SUBJECT: ITALIAN APC SALES TO LIBYA

REF: STATE 193191

PER REFTEL, WE HAVE INFORMALLY PASSED WORD TO MINISTRIES OF FONAFF AND DEFENSE THAT TANASSI WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED TO RAISE QUESTION OF US APPROVAL OF ITALIAN SALE OF ADDITIONAL APC'S TO LIBYA DURING HIS VISIT TO THE US IN VIEW OF LIKELY NEGATIVE RESPONSE. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS, ITALIAN OFFICIALS APPEARED RELAXED ON SUBJECT, INDICATING THAT CURRENT ITALIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD LIBYA IS ONE OF CAUTION. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE THAT TANASSI WILL ADHERE TO OUR ADMONISITIONS, BUT OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT SUBJECT WILL NOT RPT NOT COME UP DURING WASHINGTON MEETINGS. BEAUDRY

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